

Inadvertently Generated PCBs Research



Project Title	Inadvertently Generated PCBs Research
Project Summary	The EPA seeks a virtual intern to conduct an in depth literature review and data gap analysis on the topic of inadvertently generated Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic. This is a great opportunity to help the EPA protect the public from toxic chemicals.
Country	United States
Agency	Environmental Protection Agency
DoS Office	N/A
Post	N/A
Section	N/A
Number of Interns	1

Project Description

Although the intentional production of PCBs was banned by the Toxic Substances Control Act in 1979, inadvertent production of PCBs was excluded from regulation under certain conditions. Inadvertent production continues today. Recent data from several parties has demonstrated inadvertently generated PCBs are present in a variety of consumer products. Some research exists describing the industrial processes that create inadvertent PCBs and whether PCBs contaminate the product or the process waste stream. Other research shows that some inadvertently generated PCB congeners are capable of leaching out of consumer products and some of the same PCB congeners found in consumer products are also found in the environment and humans. However, this information is disparate and it is difficult to draw conclusions at this point. The goal of this project is to synthesize the available information and research and provide a data gap analysis on the issue for better decision making.

Desired Skills Interests

Additional Information

EPA seeks an intern to conduct a literature review to gather information about the current state of knowledge on:

1. the processes that generate inadvertent PCBs and potential alternatives to those processes,
2. the distribution and concentration of inadvertent PCBs in consumer products,
3. the fate and transport of inadvertent PCBs into the environment, and
4. the effects on human health and the environment.

Research would include gathering relevant information from government publications and professional journals.

The intern's final product will provide EPA with a more comprehensive picture on the current state of the issue.

It will include a summary of the findings, an in-depth list of references divided by major sub headings, data gap analysis by sub heading, and recommended next steps by sub heading as follows: 1) Sources of Inadvertently Generated PCBs, 2) Risk and Affected Populations (human and animal), 3) Alternative Processes, 4) Chemistry, 5) Fate and Transport, and 6) Concentration in Products.

For more information about PCBs and EPA, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pcbs>

Language Requirements

None